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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

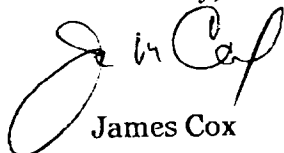
Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my sentiments regarding the Microsoft settlement. I feel that your office has reached a fair and reasonable agreement that will provide certainty about the new rules imposed on the IT sector. I do not see any benefit in pursuing further litigation at the Federal level, and am happy to see that your office will be free to pursue more urgent matters affecting our nation.

The settlement will benefit all software publishers, the IT industry as a whole, and consumers. The resumption of competition will stimulate our economy, while giving the consumers more choices. As far as the competition is concerned, Microsoft will change the way it develops, licenses, and markets its software in order to accommodate independent vendors. Furthermore, Microsoft is required to make available its technology to a competitor, should that competitor infringe on its intellectual property.

We don't need more federal litigation to keep Microsoft in check. Under your settlement, competitors can sue Microsoft if they don't think the company is complying with the terms of the agreement. I think that the complaints that brought about the lawsuit have been addressed, and that your office has set up protocol on how to handle future problems. Your office has done its job, and now it is time to let businesses compete. I want to let you know that I approve of your settlement agreement, and I appreciate your taking the time to hear my opinions on the matter.

Sincerely,



James Cox